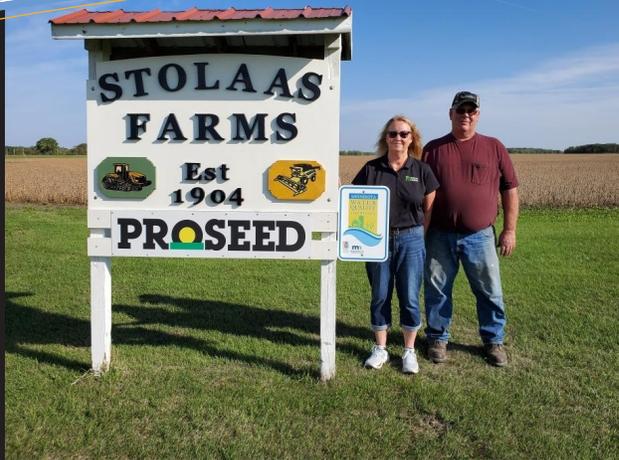




Pennington SWCD

January 2022

2021 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST



In this issue

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- ◆ 2021 Rural Beautification Winners
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Joel and LeAnn Stolaas were named the Outstanding Conservationist for 2021. In December, the Stolaases were recognized at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Bloomington. We were proud to have Joel and LeAnn represent Pennington County.

Deer Park Township is home to the Stolaas Farm. The farm was established in 1904 and Joel is a fourth-generation farmer caring for the land. Joel operates 1,500 acres of soybeans, wheat, and hayland. Through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Joel has implemented residue management reducing soil erosion and providing organic matter for the soil. A side water inlet was also installed through the EQIP program.

Joel has implemented several natural resource enhancements through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Joel utilizes GPS pesticide application and completes tissue testing for nitrogen management. More recently, Joel has completed a pollinator and monarch butterfly planting. Twenty acres of cover crop is planted each year to reduce soil erosion and increase soil health.

In 2019, Joel was certified through the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. The implementation of reduced tillage, nutrient management, the installation of a side water inlet, an eighty-foot hayed buffer, and a riparian buffer along the Red Lake River are just some of the practices that led to the certification.



Joel and LeAnn will also be honored at the Pennington SWCD Banquet in April. The 2021 selection was made from the Townships of Reiner, Star, Hickory, Goodridge, Highlanding, Deer Park, and Kratka.

PENNINGTON SWCD

Serving Pennington County
Since 1948

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M-TH

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. F

Mission Statement

Provide landowners with technical assistance in identifying and improving resource issues.

Board of Supervisors

Ricky Peterson
Linda Hanson
Greg Hilgeman
ADawn Nelson
Kevin Wilde

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

District Staff

Peter Nelson
District Manager
Barb Molskness
District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald.....
District Technician
Bryanna Grefthen
Water Resource Specialist
Matt Sorvig
Resource Technician
Donna Christianson.....
Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes
Farm Bill Biologist

Assisted by NRCS

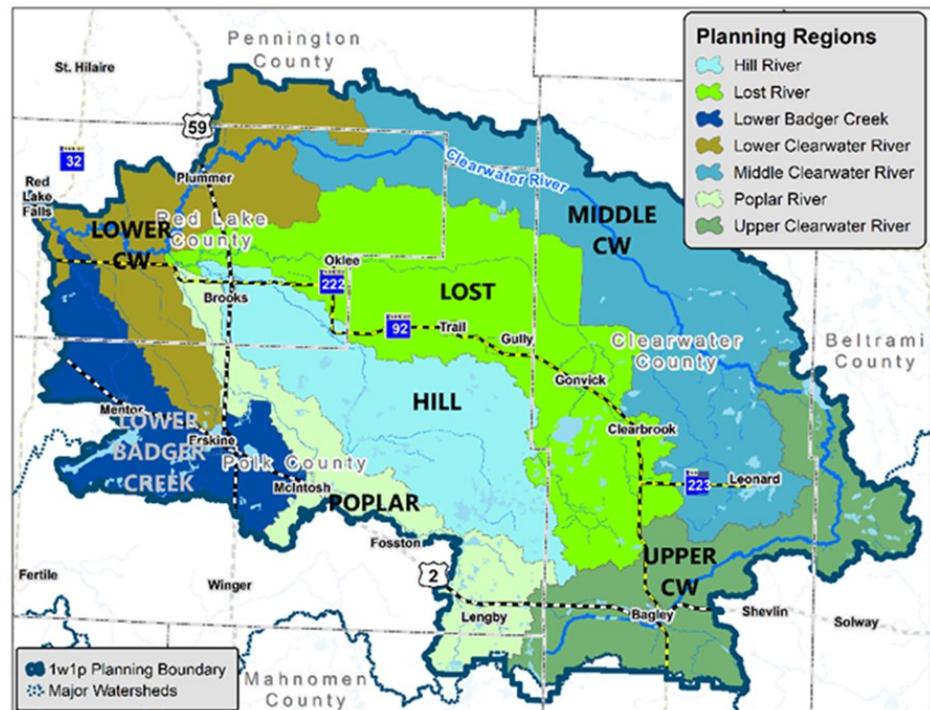
Nico Bennett.....
District Conservationist

An Equal Opportunity
Provider and Employer

Clearwater River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan

The Pennington SWCD is partnering with neighboring SWCDs, counties, and the watershed district to develop a Comprehensive Local Watershed Management Plan for the Clearwater River Watershed. Partners include Clearwater, Red Lake, and Pennington Counties and SWCDs, Polk County, East Polk SWCD, and the Red Lake Watershed District. The Clearwater SWCD is coordinating the planning effort and Houston Engineering is contracted to write the plan. Plans have already been completed for the Red Lake and Thief River Watersheds making the Clearwater our third, and final plan, until the Red Lake River Plan needs updating in 2027.

These Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans build on existing efforts, using current local water plans, state and local knowledge, and a science-based approach to watershed management. Like previous water plans, the One Watershed, One Plan process involves a broad range of stakeholders including local governments, state agencies, and community members. The Clearwater River Watershed plan started in March of 2021 and priority issues have been identified. The next steps for the partnership are identifying plan goals and actions with a draft plan expected in June of 2022. The final plan is anticipated to be approved in the spring of 2023.



Thank
You!

Tracking and monitoring for buffer compliance continues throughout the county. A big “THANK YOU” to everyone for working so hard to get your buffers in.

If you have any questions about a buffer, please call Matt at 218-683-7075.

2021 RURAL BEAUTIFICATION WINNERS

MIKE AND KAMI SPEARS

WOW!, will be your initial thought as you take in the breathtaking beauty of Mike and Kami Spears meticulously manicured yard. The yard exhibits a large variety of trees and flowers, Kami's tomato café, and Mike's vegetable garden. It's accented with fun antiques, creative decorations, and personal items that complement the couple's personalities. Evidence of Mike's hard work is reflected in a beautiful brick planter that not only displays petunias and yellow snapdragons, but frolicking bees and butterflies as well.

As a young bride, Kami always wanted to have a big yard. Unknown to her, Mike was working on that dream and surprised her one day with an acre of land near the river in Rocksbury Township. It didn't take long before they built their home and started sculpting the yard into what it is today. But as life goes, Mother Nature threw them a curve ball recently when they lost a whole row of 25-year-old trees to Dutch Elm Disease. New trees have been planted in their place, but it will take a few years before the shade returns.



Photo courtesy of the Times

When you stand back and look over the yard, you see the labor of love and passion Kami has put into it. Her time spent outside mowing, weed whacking, and watering the flowers is a tribute to her love of gardening. Her gift for using whimsical recycled items like old wash tubs, coffee pots, wooden barrels, toy wagons, and toolboxes (which remind her of her dad) gives testament to her artistic creativity. As your eyes roam from feature to feature, you can quickly spot her favorite color, yellow. Many of the accent items like the wind chimes, bench, wishing well, water pump, and windmill are near and dear to the couple as they were gifted to them by family and friends.

Let's not leave out the couple's four children, (Grant, Devin, Shawna, and Trista), who have also put their stamp on the property. Grant and Devin helped their father build the back deck where folks

love to gather and relax. The spruce tree that stands in the front yard was an Arbor Day kindergarten tree their son, Devin, received from the Pennington SWCD. Shawna used her artistic talents to create a bird themed display that is exhibited along the side of the house. To add to the family's love of nature, Trista is constantly seeking out new and unusual plants, like the ever-allusive popcorn plant (and yes, it does really smell like popcorn) .

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Q&A

Q: Am I allowed to remove trees and brush from my wetland?

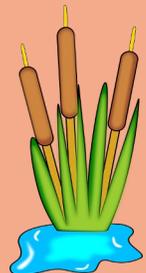
A: Yes. Cutting or removing trees and/or brush from wetlands is generally allowed. However, piling the trees into large piles could be considered wetland fill and is subject to WCA regulations.

Q: Is mowing a wetland compliant with WCA?

A: Yes. Although continuous mowing can affect the functions and value of a wetland, the effects are not caused by filling, draining, or excavating, and therefore are not a wetland impact under WCA.

Q: Is farming a wetland compliant with WCA?

A: Yes, but with some conditions. WCA allows cropping or pasture use within a wetland provided *normal* farming practices are used. Normal farming practices include grazing, plowing, seeding, cultivation, harvesting, and related activities if the activity ***does not*** result in draining or filling of the wetland.



It is important to check with the staff at Pennington SWCD regarding WCA regulations if any improvements involving filling, draining, or excavating are being considered on your property. For agricultural land, also check with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for compliance with Swampbuster.

From Beginning To End: The Hudson Project



Before: River bank erosion caused by concentrated flow of urban runoff.



Construction: A drop pipe was installed that provides a stable path for the water to outlet into the Red Lake River and eliminate flow over the bank.



After: Financial assistance was provided through the State Cost-share Program.



Judicial Ditch 25

The SWCD used watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) to install 22 side water inlets along JD25. WBIF comes from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed in 2008. JD25 is in a priority area identified in the Red Lake River 1WIP with a goal to reduce sediment loading.

These locations were prioritized by a previously completed ditch inventory. Pipes were installed using 75% cost-share from WBIF and the remaining 25% was covered by the ditch authority. The pipes were placed where gullies formed as water ran off field ditches into the county ditch. The purpose of the pipe is to drop the water from field level to the ditch level. Please reach out to our office if you have any erosion concerns on your property.



Before: Picture shows Resource Technician, Matthew Sorvig, standing in the gully.



After: Picture shows an installed side water inlet, repairing the gully erosion.



Give Your Cows a Break from the Wind

Winter is difficult for livestock operations. Cold temperatures and wind create stressful conditions for cattle, requiring them to consume more feed to maintain body temperature while the cost of feed is expensive. However, there are ways to mitigate these effects on cattle and expenses.

Properly implementing a windbreak provides benefits for feedlots, calving areas, and livestock pastures. A windbreak on the north and west sides of feeding areas reduces wind speeds, keeping cattle warmer. Wind protection reduces animal stress, protects health, and increases feeding efficiency. This means cattle will not require as much feed, reducing expenses. Windbreaks with clearings on the south allows southerly winds in the feedlot, reducing risk of heat stress while nearby trees provide shade for the summer.

Windbreaks can be used as snow control, such as holding snow in low traffic areas, allowing easier access to animals, buildings, or feed storage areas. Protecting high traffic areas from snow accumulation and drifting can reduce expenses for fuel, wear on equipment, and labor for moving snow. A windbreak can be designed to capture snow for spring stock pond recharge, too. Windbreaks around a livestock operation are a good barrier that filters dust from the road, screens unsightly areas and noises, and absorbs livestock odors or masks the smells with the aromas from the trees.

Planting a windbreak has many advantages and benefits for not only the cattle and producers but also for the surrounding wildlife and environment. If you are interested in these benefits, please call the SWCD office to start planning your future windbreak.

“The MPCA is a sponsoring agency with a grant supporting a portion of the delegated Pennington County Feedlot Program.”



Septic System Upgrade Grant

If you are a rural landowner in Pennington County and have issues with your septic system, you may be eligible for a septic upgrade grant. Additional grant funding is available this year. The grant will provide cost-share to rural landowners that meet grant income guidelines and have a failing system. This includes sewage discharge to the ground surface, sewage backup into a dwelling or establishment, sewage discharge to surface waters or systems that fail to protect groundwater. If you have a failing septic system and are interested in the grant program, contact Peter Nelson at the Pennington SWCD.

In addition to the grant program, low-interest loans are available for septic systems through the Agriculture Best Management Practice (AgBMP) Loan Program. Septic systems must be installed according to local and state rules which includes a permit from the Pennington SWCD. AgBMP loans have interest rates up to three percent.



Beauty Is A Bonus!

A *Winter Wonderland* is an awesome sight, but next time nature catches your eye, consider the many benefits those trees provide. Trees help minimize heating and cooling costs in our homes, provide protection for cattle, habitat for wildlife, and reduce wind erosion. When local cooperators were asked, "How do your windbreaks help you?" they had the following comments:

"A main benefit is having a windbreak in the cold. When it is windy, you can sure tell the difference in the protected yard versus out of the yard."

"Having the windbreak snow fence helps keep the snow out of the main yard. It's a definite benefit."

"The kids enjoy watching the wildlife in the windbreak (that could be both wanted and unwanted wildlife visitors!)"



Peter Grosz - Goodridge Township
Trees planted in: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2017, and 2019

"Good wind protection is essential for cattle, both for comfort and feed efficiency. It also aids the producer's comfort. You can make artificial wind protection, but trees are much better. Actually, they work well together."

"The country has opened up more, and it's much windier. Trees on the south are as important as the trees on the north and west. The stronger winds have increased the importance of having a good shelterbelt around the livestock facilities. A good windbreak is just as good as having the cattle inside."

"They catch the snow to protect your yard and provide habitat for wildlife and birds."



Greg Hilgeman - Deer Park Township
Trees planted in: 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2018

Tree Plan: SWCD staff will design a tree plan suitable to your soil type, location, and preference. The plan includes tree species, spacing, and a cost estimate. We can also direct you through the cost-sharing process if you are eligible.

Tree Planting: We provide the tractor, planter, and the labor. All you need to do is make sure the site is well prepared and suitable for planting.

Maintenance: This is important for establishing your windbreak. Weed barrier fabric can be applied within the rows, helping with weed control and moisture retention. Tree tubes can also be installed. The tubes act as a mini greenhouse to accelerate growth, reduce weed competition, and provide protection from animals, rodents, and equipment.

Contact the SWCD: Your first step is to call us at 218-683-7075. We will send you an information packet and set up an appointment to meet on site. Don't delay, you can have your own *Winter Wonderland* soon!

If you are looking to enhance your property with trees, contact our office for assistance. We provide a complete package from planning, to planting, and maintenance!

SPRING 2022 TREE & SHRUB ORDER FORM

PENNINGTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

201 SHERWOOD AVENUE SOUTH
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN 56701
(218) 683-7075

NAME: _____ HOME or CELL PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

The Pennington SWCD agrees to furnish said nursery stock to purchaser as only a local distributor to landowners. We express or imply no warranty as to productiveness or survival of nursery stock we furnish. We accept all orders subject to the same conditions we accept from our suppliers. You will be notified **by mail** when to pick up your trees. If you have any questions, please call our office at 218-683-7075. Remember once our supply of trees is depleted, we cannot obtain any additional trees. **ORDER EARLY!**

**** ALL TREES ARE TO BE USED FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES ONLY! ****

ALL TREES & SHRUBS SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 (except potted spruce)

Average Tree Size: 18 - 24 Inches

SPECIES	MATURITY	TYPE	NO. OF BUNDLES	PRICE PER BNDL. (25)	\$ TOTAL \$
Potted Black Hills Spruce (1 gal. 12-18")	50-80 Feet	EVERGREEN		\$14.00 each	
Cedar, Eastern Red	15-25 Feet	EVERGREEN		\$55.00	
Pine, Scotch	60-80 Feet	EVERGREEN		\$55.00	
Spruce, Black Hills	60-80 Feet	EVERGREEN		\$55.00	
Spruce, Colorado Blue	60-80 Feet	EVERGREEN		\$55.00	
Ash, Green	40-60 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Cottonwood, Siouxland	80-100 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Hackberry	40-60 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Maple, Silver	60-90 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Maple, Red	50-70 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Oak, Bur	70-80 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Poplar, Hybrid	80-100 Feet	TALL HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Birch, Paper	20-30 Feet	MEDIUM HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Chokecherry, Common	20-30 Feet	MEDIUM HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Crab, Red Splendor	15-25 Feet	MEDIUM HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Maple, Amur	15-20 Feet	MEDIUM HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Plum, American	20-25 Feet	MEDIUM HARDWOOD		\$45.00	
Nannyberry	12-15 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Cranberry, Highbush	10-15 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Dogwood, Redosier	12-15 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Indigo, False	8-15 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Juneberry	6-15 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Lilac, Common	8-10 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	
Sandcherry, Western	6-10 Feet	SHRUB		\$45.00	

Price does not include tree planting cost

Also Available:

Plantskydd Deer Repellant (powder mix, granular or pre-mixed)

Tree Protector Tubes, Stakes, and Weed Barrier Fabric

Orders under \$100 require payment in full

Orders over \$100 require a minimum of 50% down payment

Make Checks Payable to: **PENNINGTON SWCD**

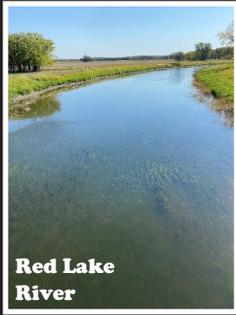
Subtotal _____

6.875% Sales Tax _____

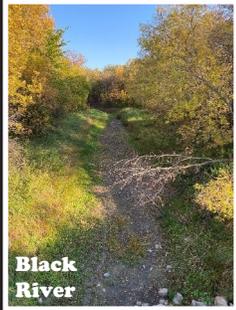
TOTAL _____

Down Payment _____

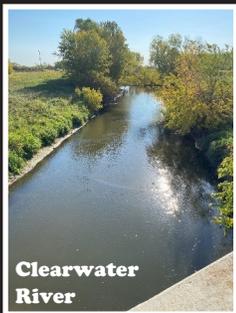
AMOUNT DUE _____



Red Lake River



Black River



Clearwater River

Option 1: 2021 A Year for the Record Books!

-OR-

Option 2: It's Not the Heat, it's the Gosh Darn Lack of Precipitation

With wind chills below zero and snow on the ground, it's hard to remember a few months ago we were hoping for cooler weather and rain. The summer of 2021 was one for the record books in more ways than one. For most parts of the state, 2021 was the hottest summer on record (MPR News). The temperatures were above average while precipitation was well below average. Rainfall monitors in Pennington County averaged less than 5 inches of rain between April and July, the lowest in the past 30 years. The remaining 11.5 inches of rain fell after August 1st totaling the fifth lowest recorded amount of rainfall in over 30 years with 16.35 inches for 2021.

The hot, dry summer affected crops, gardens, lawns, and impacted our water resources. The Red River Watershed experienced extreme to exceptional drought conditions until rain gave relief in early fall. However, as of mid-November, much of Pennington County remains in a moderate drought phase (MN DNR). The three river systems in the county showed the stress of the drought as the Black River remained nearly dry from July to October, the Red Lake River (Kratka Bridge) in July had the lowest water level reading since 2014, and the Clearwater River had several of the lowest water levels since 2014 as well.

Not only surface water is affected by this record summer. The shallow DNR observation wells that are monitored on the western side of the county saw the lowest or top 10 lowest water levels on record since 1995. However, late fall readings showed slight recharge from the fall rain, bringing water levels back to near typical range for the last five-year average.

While fall provided some precipitation, it will still take time for our water resources and environment to recover from the effects of the extreme, record setting weather in 2021.

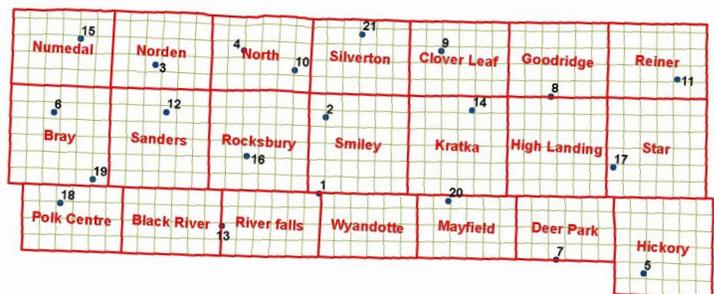


2021 Rainfall Monitoring

Pennington County rainfall amounts in 2021 were quite a bit lower than 2020. Our growing season (April thru October) averaged 16.35 inches. This compares to 18.16" in 2020, 22.95" in 2019; 15.6" in 2018; 13.5" in 2017; 22.3" in 2016; 18.4" in 2015; and 19.4" in 2014. Since our program started in 1986, the growing season average rainfall amount is 18.76.

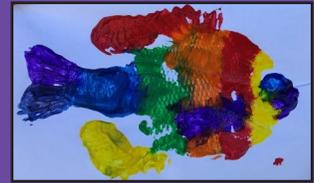
A big "THANK YOU" all our rainfall monitors!

#	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	TOTAL
1	1.53	0.98	1.66	0.59	5.14	3.10	3.87	16.87
2	0.04	0.85	1.84	0.53	6.22	3.73	3.48	16.69
3	1.15	1.09	3.57	0.69	5.57	2.71	4.44	19.22
4	0.89	0.53	1.54	0.40	4.15	2.51	3.75	13.77
5	2.36	2.59	1.39	0.33	3.02	2.02	4.95	16.66
6	1.16	1.12	2.73	1.20	5.49	1.82	3.54	17.06
7	1.72	2.28	1.28	0.60	2.65	2.60	4.14	15.27
8	1.80	1.24	1.58	0.54	3.17	3.24	3.73	15.30
9	1.85	0.70	1.37	0.32	4.47	2.82	3.86	15.39
10	1.48	0.98	2.26	0.42	4.54	2.91	4.36	16.95
11	2.25	1.47	2.18	0.60	4.85	2.98	4.71	19.04
12	1.27	0.96	1.98	0.57	5.42	2.59	5.87	18.66
13	1.08	0.82	1.78	0.79	2.64	3.57	3.71	14.39
14	1.89	0.70	1.94	0.61	4.96	3.41	3.51	17.02
15	0.97	1.73	1.81	0.66	5.53	2.30	3.98	16.98
16	1.33	1.17	1.56	0.72	3.28	2.60	3.39	14.05
17	1.55	1.24	2.00	0.50	3.25	4.00	3.00	15.54
18	0.94	0.74	2.67	0.83	5.36	1.96	4.20	16.70
19	0.85	0.62	2.67	0.36	5.46	1.85	4.01	15.82
20	0.84	0.51	1.10	0.52	2.84	2.89	3.60	12.30
21	1.79	0.60	1.52	0.44	7.41	3.54	4.37	19.67
AVE	1.37	1.09	1.93	0.58	4.54	2.82	4.02	16.35



OUTDOOR ED DAY

Each September, the Pennington SWCD sponsors an Outdoor Education Day at Oakland Park for area 6th graders to learn more about the environment and our natural resources. Throughout the course of the day, the students create edible landfills, taste glaciers, and take the incredible journey of a water drop. Other activities include a deer population game, tree bingo, aquatic invasive species, trapping, casting, minnow races, a water hauling relay, and archery. One hundred sixty-one students from Thief River Falls, Goodridge, and Grygla participated in this fun educational day.

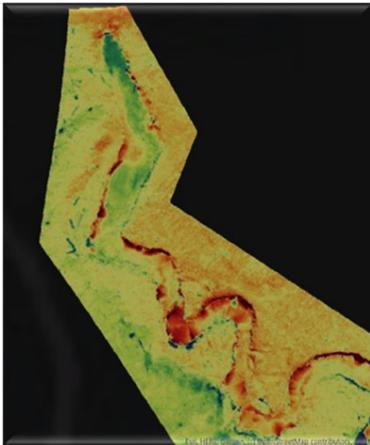


The NW Minnesota Water Festival is a two-day learning event held every September for 4th graders at the Warren and Fertile fairgrounds. The festival teaches students about water resources and conservation practices. Students learn about watersheds, water quality, groundwater, flooding, aquatic invasive species, and aquatic life. Eighteen schools (470 students) took part in this year's fun, interactive event.

NW MN WATER FESTIVAL

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Drainage System Outlet Analysis Grant Complete



Overlay of two year's flights. Red areas showing the loss of sediment and blue areas showing a gain.

Pennington SWCD and Northland Community and Technical College partnered to inventory the outlets of county ditches using small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS). The inventory was used to locate and prioritize outlets that are eroding and need to be stabilized. LIDAR data was utilized to prioritize the ditches as it provides elevation data, even through trees and other foliage. LIDAR sends out a pulsed laser which reflects back and calculates distance by measuring the time it takes for that laser to travel back.

Fifty-one ditches were flown with LIDAR for 3 years. They were then ranked according to the change in the digital elevation model (DEM) from year 1 to year 3. The goal of this project is to prioritize projects that will reduce sediment going into the Red Lake River and improve water quality. With the grant now complete, the SWCD hopes to continue monitoring the outlets with flights every few years.



Revitalizing the Ralph Engelstad Rain Gardens

In June of 2021, Patrice Delany, Conservation Corps of MN and Iowa Team Member and Pennington SWCD Summer Apprentice, coordinated with staff from the City of Thief River Falls to clean up the rain gardens outside the Ralph Engelstad Arena.

Three large gardens were planted in 2015 as a memorial to Al Gustafson, a local conservationist and hockey enthusiast. The goal of the plantings was to collect rainwater runoff from the arena's rooftop and prevent the street from flooding. However, due to minimal maintenance over the years, the plantings had become overgrown and inundated with weeds. Patrice met with the Ralph Engelstad Arena and the City of Thief River Falls to coordinate a plan for weed removal, future plantings, and maintenance.

Nine volunteers from Textron, Inc., and multiple employees of TRF's Public Works Department worked together to remove invasive weeds while conserving as many of the original plants as possible. To the group's amazement, some native wildflowers (not originally planted in the gardens but known to be beneficial to pollinators and help the rain gardens to function properly) were found during the cleaning process.

The group also observed many different types of insects and pollinators—grasshoppers in the grasses, a bumble bee nest in the mulch, and monarch butterflies and caterpillars feeding on milkweed were all calling the gardens home!

Two new signs will be installed in the spring of 2022 near the entrance to the Ralph Engelstad Arena. One of the signs dedicates the gardens to Al Gustafson and relays a quick synopsis about how the rain gardens are designed to work. The other sign describes some of the different types of vegetation planted throughout the gardens.

Thanks to Peter Nelson, SWCD District Manager, and Larissa Fitzgerald, SWCD District Technician, for their guidance and assistance with this project and to Travis Giffen, the Public Works Director, and Tom Harbott, the Cemetery Technician, for their dedication and enthusiasm to improve the rain gardens. Last but not least, we would like to thank Patrice Delany for all her work coordinating this huge project!





Al Gustafson Memorial Rain Garden
This Rain Garden is Dedicated to Al Gustafson
Devoted Conservationist and Hockey Enthusiast

Al worked for the USA National Resources Conservation Service for 42 years. His knowledge of plant materials contributed to the education of many.

Al began playing hockey at a young age in Hibbing, Minnesota and continued on trips with Hibbing High School, Cloquet Senior High, and Thief River Children. In 1970 he started a youth program in Marshall, Minnesota. For many years he was the president of THORSA. In 1990 he became an active official and executive young member. He ran the coach board for the high school hockey games and became the coach and general manager of his Thief River children.

Al had a great sense of humor and was a kind and warm to everyone.

Roof Top To Rain Garden
A rain garden is planted with native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs designed to capture and store water in order to maintain water permeability. The garden intercepts a flow of runoff before it can be absorbed by the soil. The runoff is stored in a 3-6 inch mulch layer for 24 hours. Most of the runoff flows from the roof to the garden. The runoff is then filtered through the mulch and into the soil. The runoff is then filtered through the mulch and into the soil. The runoff is then filtered through the mulch and into the soil.

This project was made possible by funding and staff support from:
Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District
City of Thief River Falls
Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment
Red Lake Watershed District
and by donations from the Friends of Al Gustafson



Water that Excess the Garden
will flow into the street within 48 hours.

Plants, Shrubs, and Grasses
are in the garden.

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Plants, Shrubs, and Grasses
are in the garden.

Vegetation
There are over one thousand plants in the rain gardens including 13 unique species of grasses, sedges, and flowers.

<p>Blazing Star Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Yellow, Red, Orange Native to the United States</p>	<p>Gray-headed Cudweed Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>	<p>Blue Flag Iris Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Blue Native to the United States</p>
<p>Red Top Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>	<p>Blue Vervain Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Blue Native to the United States</p>	<p>Monarda mollis Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>
<p>Little Bluestem Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Blue Native to the United States</p>	<p>New England Aster Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Purple Native to the United States</p>	<p>Great Blue Lobelia Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Blue Native to the United States</p>
<p>Black-eyed Susans Height: 2' - 3' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>	<p>Caterpillar Sedge Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>	<p>Hoop Pines Height: 1' - 2' Flowers: Yellow Native to the United States</p>

USDA Cost-Share Programs

EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to address natural resource concerns that deliver environmental benefits such as: improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, enhancing plant and soil health, and developing wildlife habitat.

Applications for EQIP are accepted throughout the year. If your application is accepted for funding, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance to implement chosen practices. Payment rates are reviewed annually.

CSP

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity for landowners to supplement their operation through conservation enhancement activities. CSP can help plan and implement conservation practices and enhancements that address natural resource concerns within your operation.

CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts and strengthen your operation for sustainability. CSP has a contract length of 5 years to help achieve your operational goals.

If you have any questions, please contact your local NRCS office at (218) 681-1612.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CRP

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pays landowners to temporarily retire cropland. Land is enrolled into 10-15-year contracts and planted into grasses, forbs, or trees to create wildlife habitat and reduce sedimentation. Landowners receive a yearly payment for keeping the cover.

The current Farm Bill has some increased soil rental rates and new incentives incorporated into it. A continuous CRP signup is currently underway with a general CRP signup expected in the near future.

If you want to learn more about CRP options that might be a good fit for your land, please contact Jill Fejszes at the Pennington SWCD.



Noxious Weed Inventory is Complete!

The Pennington County Invasive and Noxious Weed Inventory has been completed; check it out on our website. Please continue to report infestations that do not appear on this inventory. (The SWCD plans to apply for future grants to possibly provide cost-share or resources, such as tools, for weed management in priority areas based on the completed inventory). If mowing noxious weeds, do so prior to seed development and **DO NOT** mow when seed is present. If applying herbicide to



noxious weeds, research the ideal development stage to apply chemical. To dispose of noxious weeds, it is best to let the plant lay and decay or burn in a designated area. Transporting plants could accidentally spread the weed to new locations and burying the plant could allow regeneration. For more information on weed management, or if you would like report infestations of noxious weeds, please contact the Pennington CWMA (218-683-7075) or the Pennington County Agricultural Inspector.

"Funding for the inventory provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant and BWSR CWMA Grant."

***"Don't let
your
WEEDS
go to
SEED!"***



**PENNINGTON SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
201 Sherwood Ave S, Suite 3
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-3400

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Thief River Falls, MN 56701

**2022 Tree Order
Form Enclosed**



SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP



In the fall of 2021, a soil health workshop was held at the Proulx Farm near Dorothy, Minnesota. The objective of the workshop was to discuss soil health practices, their effect on soil properties, and how these best management practices can benefit farming operations in our area. Some of the lessons learned from this demonstration were:

1. It doesn't have to be an all or nothing implementation of practices
2. Not all soils act and react in the same way
3. It takes time to see the benefits of soil health practices

Five different soil samples (grassed, no-tilled, heavily tilled, and two lightly tilled) with nearly the same soil type were taken from the surrounding area. Each of the samples was examined to learn how the soil would react when stressed with water. Brian Kloster, NRCS Area Soil Scientist, and Eric Anderson, NRCS Area Resource Conservationist, used a rainfall simulator to mimic water runoff and infiltration. They also performed a slake test on some heavily tilled and no-tilled soils.



Brian Kloster said it best, "The overall goal of soil health is to get the soil to function at its highest potential." Mimicking nature with diverse multi-species cover crops, minimizing soil erosion, reducing tillage and disturbances, and integrating livestock into the system all help to achieve this goal.

Check out the workshop video at: <https://youtu.be/dzyblzqFNIM>.

Check out our website at: www.penningtonswcd.org